

2-16-2004

What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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What's News

at Rhode Island College



Vol. 24 Issue 7

Circulation over 50,000

Feb. 16, 2004

Highlights

In the News

Gonsalves Fund Scholarships awarded to two RIC students connected to Station fire

New MFA joint program with Trinity Rep and Brown established

The Unity Center presents Black History Month

Features

Some RIC students meet the Democratic presidential candidates in N.H.

Phenomenal females at RIC — The First Woman of Color

Foundation/Alumni News

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New Alumni Directory now available

Sports

In memory of Hall of Famer Mike Creedon

Wrestler Deveau ranked No. 1 in New England

Arts/Entertainment

Jeffrey Siegel's Keyboard Conversations® March 3

Salzburg Marionettes perform March 17

Academy Award winner Joshua Bell returns

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Out of the ashes comes hope for RIC students linked to Station fire

by Jane Fusco
What's News Editor

Two RIC students affected by the Station fire receive the first scholarship awards from the Michael "The Doc" Gonsalves '86 Scholarship Fund.

To his many radio listeners, he was The Doc. To his many friends, he was Gonzo. To the College community, he was a beloved alumnus and a prominent presence on the campus. To Rhode Island College students Gina Mattera and Michael Iannone, he is someone they've never met — and never will — but will help them achieve their dream of a college education.

Mattera and Iannone are the first recipients of cash awards from the Michael J. Gonsalves '86 Scholarship Endowment Fund, established at the College by Gonsalves' friends and family shortly after his death in West Warwick's Station nightclub fire on February 20, 2003.

The Station nightclub fire claimed the lives of 100 patrons and injured several hundred others. It is con-



MICHAEL GONSALVES '86
(PHOTO FROM WHJY WEBSITE)

sidered the worst disaster in the state's history.

The scholarship is intended for RIC students affected in some way by the Station fire.

Mattera's sister, Tammy Mattera-Housa, also died in the fire. Mattera's

family has been hit with financial difficulties, almost forcing Gina, a sophomore communications major, to quit school. The Doc scholarship provided her with money to pay for books and course materials so she can stay in school.

Iannone, a senior education major, is a fire survivor, who was hospitalized at Mass. General for five months with third degree burns over his face and back, and lost a hand and an ear. He has undergone 30 surgeries. Iannone's doctors advised him against working in a computer lab for health risks, so he had to buy a laptop for coursework. The Doc scholarship funded that purchase for him.

Once Gonsalves was confirmed dead, his friends, many of whom were his Kappa Delta Phi fraternity brothers at RIC, met at a pub in Providence to give Gonsalves a final sendoff the way only friends could, when the idea for a scholarship took hold.

"We wanted some sort of vehicle to keep his memory alive and make sure he could still affect people's lives in the future," said Thom

Continued on page 6

Expanded MFA theatre program features renewed ties to Trinity Rep

by Rob Martin
What's News Managing Editor

Rhode Island College's Master of Fine Arts theatre program is back on track — three tracks, actually — and better than ever, now that students will be able to earn degrees in specialized areas of theatre, in association with Providence's Trinity Repertory Company and Brown University.

The proposal to restructure RIC's graduate theatre program was approved by the state Board of Governors for Higher Education on January 26. The authorization capped two years of "careful deliberation, negotiation and planning," said Richard Weiner, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences at RIC.

"The revised MFA is a beacon in the region that signifies the importance of the role of liberal arts at Rhode Island College — especially its creativity and strength," added Weiner.

The newly designed theatre program will offer three different tracks of study for a degree: Stage Management, Technical Theatre, and Performance & Society. The first two



STRIKING A DEAL: From left are Richard Weiner, RIC dean of arts and sciences; Oskar Eustis, artistic director of Trinity Rep; and Edgar Dobie, managing director of Trinity. The three met in the offices of Trinity Repertory Theatre on January 30. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

tracks will be available to students through the Trinity Rep Consortium that includes RIC, Trinity Rep, and Brown University. The third track

will be offered as part of a Downtown Theatre Collaborative composed

Continued on page 6

Then and Now...

In keeping with the Sesquicentennial celebration, we will feature a series of paired photos showing the College “Then” and “Now.”



THE CHANGE IN DINING: For this issue of What’s News we contrast a photo of the snack bar (left) as it was in the Student Center in 1961 with the new Café (right), which opened January 26 on the ground floor of the Student Union. (See story below.) By the way, the hijinks taking place in the snack bar photo were part of Frontier Night. In contrast to the modest snack bar, the new Café covers 5,250 square feet and was built at a cost of approximately half a million dollars. Some alumni will recognize the space as an expanded version of the area once occupied by the Rathskellar and more recently, The CoffeeGround. The Café can seat 80 diners and offers sandwich wraps, eight varieties of pizza, pastries, coffee and other drinks. There is a small stage for entertainment. Plans are to install a bank of computers connected to the Internet to make it a true cyber café. The hours of operation are Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 4 to 10:30 p.m. Oh yes, in 1961, a coffee in the snack bar cost 10 cents.

In Memoriam –

Frank B. Correia, professor emeritus, decorated WWII Navy commander

Frank B. Correia, 83, of Bristol, a professor of mathematics (retired) at Rhode Island College and former Navy commander who was highly decorated during World War II, died at home December 29, 2003.



FRANK CORREIA
(file photo)

Born in Bristol, he was a son of the late Manuel and Carrie (Sousa) Correia.

Correia joined RIC in 1963, after

retiring from the Navy. During his career at the College he taught a wide range of mathematics courses and a variety of general education offerings. Among other accomplishments, he started the Math Club, supervised the Honors Program in mathematics, chaired the College Honors Committee for five years, advised masters candidates, served on mathematics high school visiting lecture teams and prepared papers on the theory of prime numbers.

He reached emeritus status in 1983 after 19 years of service to the College.

His military career began in 1941, when he was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland as a midshipman. He received a bachelors degree in engineering from the Naval Academy in

1944 and was commissioned as an ensign after graduating from submarine school. Correia received a masters degree in mathematics from the University of New Mexico and a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Colorado.

He served on the *U.S.S. Kingfish* during World War II and later was aboard the captured German submarine *U-2513* with President Truman off Key West, Florida. Correia also served on the *U.S.S. Power* as executive officer and the *U.S.S. Van Divier* as commanding officer. He was executive officer of the U.S. Navy Base in Greenland in 1960 and 1961. Correia achieved the rank of Navy commander and headed the math department at the Naval Academy before coming to RIC.

Among the medals he received

were the American Defense Medal and Asiatic-Pacific Medal.

Correia was a member of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Bristol. He had been a member of the Bristol School Committee from 1966-67.

A student at Brown University in 1939 and 1940, Correia received the first Hartshorn Premiums in mathematics. As a member of the Rhode Island National Guard, he attained the rank of sergeant.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Karl F. Correia of Bristol and Claude R. Correia of Barrington, and six grandchildren. He was a brother of the late Anthony B. Correia and Louise Goulart.

Funeral services were held in St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, followed by a burial with military honors in North Burial Ground, Providence.

It's a 'smash hit' — the Café opens at RIC in January

Rhode Island College students have a new place to meet, study and get a bite to eat as the Café opened in the bottom level of the Student Union for the beginning of the spring semester.

The Café is a “smash hit at the College,” said Gary Penfield, vice president of student affairs.

Leading up to the grand opening on January 26, the Café offered a week of daily promotions including donuts for 10 cents with the purchase of a coffee, Starbucks coffee specials and a free sample slice of pizza to all customers.

The major impetus behind the creation of the Café came from a survey conducted two years ago that determined a large percentage of commuter students did not take advantage of the food service at RIC, said Penfield. Commuter students viewed Donovan Dining Center as a place for the students residing on campus, he said.

The goal of the project was to develop a new place and product line to attract the students not patronizing Donovan and provide them the opportunity to “feel comfortable

taking advantage of the Café,” said Penfield.

The survey also indicated that students were looking for “late-night service” and “something totally different from Donovan,” said Vincent Flemming, director of Donovan Dining Center.

Student preferences indicated in the survey make up the core of the menu at the Café. Pizza, sandwich wraps, coffee, donuts and gourmet beverages are the staples of the operation.

“The success to date has been remarkable,” said Arthur Patrie, associate director of Donovan Dining Center. The addition of the Café has increased the availability of dining services over 25 percent, he said. The additional hours of 7 to 10:30 p.m. nightly and the availability on weekends, account for the increase in service.

Students who live in the dorms will be able to use points off their meal plans after 7 p.m. each day.

The Café will be open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., and on weekends from 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. .

The Café will be the venue for the Coffeehouse Series of acoustic performers each Wednesday at 12:30 in the afternoon when RIC students and friends have the chance to show off their musical talents. Patrons will receive a complimentary cup of coffee at each performance.

The original opening date for the Café was to be September 2003. Construction setbacks delayed the opening to the beginning of this semester.

The Café’s location on the bottom floor of the Student Union was the former home of the famed Rathskellar pub until it closed its doors in 1986 in favor of the



RIC staff member Tony Carlino performs in the Coffeehouse Series at the Café on January 21.

CoffeeGround. The CoffeeGround closed in 2002 when renovations to the Student Union started.

“Without exception, people are very pleased with the addition of the Café,” said Penfield.

Author/educator Peter Elbow's 'low stakes' game of writing

by Rob Martin
What's News Managing Editor

Sometimes, writing the wrong way is really writing the right way.

So says Peter Elbow, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and award-winning essayist and author on teaching the art of writing.

He spoke at RIC'S 8th Annual Faculty Development Workshop January 14 in the Faculty Dining Center. His address was followed by workshop panels built around the theme, "Building a Community of Writers, Speakers, Thinkers & ..."

Elbow contrasted what he termed low-stakes writing – early drafts that won't be graded – with high-stakes writing, the carefully scrutinized final draft that requires correct spelling, grammar and organization.

"High-stakes writing goes better if we use low-stakes, free-writing to get the ideas out," said Elbow. "The ability to not think about spelling and grammar is useful to be able to pour your full attention into learning the subject." Students need to flex their free-form writing muscles, and keep their minds entirely on their thoughts, he added.

Elbow developed his writing system from his own experiences at school, which he originally regarded as a place to get gold stars and be patted on the head. The accolades stopped when he went to college. His problem was that he viewed writing as only a high-stakes task, and the higher the stakes – an important, graded paper, for example – the more pressure he felt. "My ability to

write ground to a halt," said Elbow, who ended up dropping out.

When he finally returned to college, he decided there was "nothing worse they could do to me. If you get to a place where they can't do anything more to you, it's a relief." In fact, he said, "It is empowering to fail." That's because it caused him to reevaluate the reasons why and to figure out how to succeed.

He knew that for high volume

structured and carefully copy-edited. Elbow cited several pluses from frequent low-stakes writing assignments:

- Students keep up with the required reading.
- They involve themselves more in the subject matter of the course.
- They get to know a field by talking about it in their own lingo.
- The writing is usually livelier,

will enable them to achieve at least a B grade by meeting certain requirements. He also believes in assigning plenty of shorter high-stakes papers so students can improve on them.

To evaluate writing, he has created a grid system rather than assigning multiple grades. There is still a bottom-line verdict, but in his system, he assigns a "Strong," "OK" or "Weak" to criteria such as content, insights, wording, voice, research and revising skill.

Conventional grades don't give any "useful, substantive feedback," noted Elbow. "They are nothing but markers on a yea/boo meter. Grids tell students about what they did well and badly and about what they should try to work on in revising or in future essays."

Elbow is a productive writer himself. Among the books he has authored are *Writing Without Teachers* (1973), *Writing With Power* (1981), and *Embracing Contraries: Essays on Learning and Teaching* (1986). In 2000, he wrote *Everyone Can Write: Essays Toward a Hopeful Theory of Writing and Teaching Writing*, which won the James Britton award from the Conference on English Education.

Elbow was invited to address the Faculty Development Workshop by Marjorie Roemer, professor of English and director of the Writing Program. The workshop was sponsored by The Writing Board through a grant from the RIC Faculty Development Fund and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Workshop sessions were organized by The Writing Board, The Committee on General Education, The Committee on the Assessment of Student Outcomes, Issues in Teaching and Learning, and Curriculum Committee.



SPEAKING OF WRITING: Peter Elbow, author and professor emeritus at UMass, Amherst, addresses the annual Faculty Development Workshop on January 14.

writing assignments, it was necessary to churn out "garbage" to meet tight deadlines, but discovered the process was necessary to make the high-stakes writing better." When Elbow became an educator, he found his low-to-high stakes approach could help students with their writing, and for various subjects.

But students won't practice low-stakes writing unless a teacher requires it and collects it, he said. He reviews this type of writing with a critical eye for ideas – but not mistakes. "They learn that it's possible to have a thought coming off the top of your pencil that you never had before," said Elbow.

Students learn it's not a waste of time, but rather important preparation for the high stakes piece, the one that needs to be well-con-

clearer and more interesting.

- The writing gets a student warmed up for a high-stakes piece.
- When writing for a grade, students often play it safe, making generalizations and avoiding what they're not sure of; with low stakes writing, they tend to explore perplexity.
- Instead of worrying about mistakes, they can write with full attention to their thoughts.
- Low stakes writing can be applied to math and science courses, and problem solving in general, when students write the story of the steps their minds went through as they tried to unravel a problem. This "meta-cognitive" use of language can improve problem-solving skills.

Elbow suggests that teachers create a contract with students that

The Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship

The Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship will be awarded annually to a full professor who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, scholarship, and collegial service. The recipient of the award will be the Mary Tucker Thorp College Professor for that academic year. Along with the professorship there will be a \$1,000 stipend and six hours of release time. The recipient will deliver a college-wide lecture in the spring of the award year.

The Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship is open to all full professors with at least six years of service at Rhode Island College. Individuals (including those with a FAS or FSEHD/SSW Thorp award) will be eligible for a second Thorp Professorship after an interim of at least ten years.

The criteria for the Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship are below.

For the 2004-05 Thorp Professorship, the deadline for nominations is **February 19, 2004**. Nominated individuals will be requested to submit their supporting material by March 29, 2004. The Selection Committee will attempt to make its recommendation on or about May 1, 2004.

In subsequent years the Call for Nominations will occur on or about April 15 of each year (deadline for nominations on or about May 15). The submission of supporting material will be on or about the following October 1. The Committee will make its recommendation by February 15. The recipient of the award will be announced at the academic year opening convocation (President's address to the College community).

The Call for Nominations will be made by the chair of the Thorp Professorship Selection Committee. Nominations may be made by any member of the College community and may be submitted to any member of the Selection Committee. Eligible nominees will be notified of their nomination by the chair of the Selection Committee and provided with the criteria and deadline information. The names

of those nominated will be kept confidential. As material is submitted to the chair of the Selection Committee the members of the Selection Committee will be informed and may begin reading the materials in a secure place. The deliberations of the Selection Committee will be confidential. The decision will be based on a majority vote. The name and materials of the selected individual will be forwarded to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Thorp Professorship Selection Committee will consist of tenured, full-time associate and full professors who have been nominated by the deans/director of the schools/library by March 1 of each year. The Selection Committee will be established as follows: (a) three members from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; (b) two members from the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, one of whom will be a member with a joint appointment in the arts and sciences; (c) one member each from the School of Management and Technology, the School of Social Work and from among the librarians with faculty status; and (d) the most recent Thorp Professor. The chair of the Selection Committee will be elected by the members of the committee. The Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs will serve as liaison to the Selection Committee.

The 2004 Thorp Selection Committee members are: James Barton, 2003-04 FSEHD Thorp Professor; Ellen Bigler, FSEHD – joint appointment with FAS; Jeffrey Blais, SMT; Rachel Carpenter, AL; Stephen Fisher, FAS; John Gleason, FSEHD; Pamela Jackson, 2003-04 FAS Thorp Professor; Lloyd Matsumoto, Chair, FAS; Jayashree Nimmagadda, SSW; Barbara Schapiro, FAS; James McCroskery, Liaison to the Committee.

Mary Tucker Thorp College Professorship Criteria:

The first criterion, required of all candidates, is a protracted term of demonstrated excellence in teaching. Such excellence may be characterized by, but is not necessarily

limited to, a demonstrated capability for: (a) communicating a firm command of a body of knowledge in the context of teaching and learning; (b) building on students' curiosity to learn, thereby enhancing their desire to master the discipline, practice, or field of work; (c) addressing students' diverse interests and learning styles; and (d) interacting in ways that reveal a commitment to students' total development. Evidence of outstanding teaching must include written statements by students and peers and may also include, but is not limited to, the following: course syllabi; performance of students on standardized examinations or certifications; television tapes or recordings; teaching materials; comments of faculty, students, and knowledgeable others; student achievements and awards; and technological innovations.

The criterion of demonstrated excellence in teaching must be accompanied by either excellence in scholarship or excellence in professional and collegial service, or both.

Excellence in scholarship is characterized by a sustained academic history of research or creativity in a field of inquiry, professional practice, or artistic work. Evidence of sustained scholarship and/or creativity may include, but is not limited to: published articles in professional journals, books, monographs, and technical reports; recognized creative works at artistic forums; presentations at scholarly meetings; procurement and execution of external grants; and implementation of field-tested projects.

Excellence in professional and/or collegial service may be characterized by, but is not limited to: (a) promotion of changes in local or federal policy; (b) promotion of organizational development; (c) promotion of personnel development; and (d) participation in, contribution to, or leadership in departmental or college administration/governance or student service. Demonstration of excellence in service requires documentation of the cited (or additional) characteristics by the applicant and/or others.

Foundation & Alumni News



by Ellie O'Neill
Director, Alumni
Affairs

Brown spoke about the Capital Campaign and brought the alumni

Our Florida luncheons and visits were very successful. We managed to visit with almost 120 alumni in the West Palm Beach and Ft. Myers areas. (See photos on right.)

President Nazarian and Vice President for Development and College Relations Peg

and friends an update on the changes on campus, highlighted in a short film which also gave a brief history of the College.

Many alumni spoke of the exceptional education they experienced while students at the College.

We anticipate our *RIC on the Road* events will continue to attract alumni and friends for our Sesquicentennial celebration.

On March 9 we will visit Washington, DC and April 7 we'll be in New York City, followed by a trip to San Diego on April 17.

For details, call the Alumni Office at 401-456-8086 or visit the College web site at www.ric.edu.

RIC on the road



At Doubletree Hotel Palm Beach Gardens: (l to r) Adele Jamnik Alexander '77, John Black, Mary McGuiness Black '50, Isabelle Fruit Dickens '40 and Helen Page Gilligan '47.

...and away she goes!

A clear sky, hot cocoa and two hours of swooshing down a quick snow-slicked track... it was a perfect night for winter fun on February 5 at Yawgoo Valley Ski Area.

The Young Alumni Group sponsored their first-ever snow tubing night which was enjoyed by 40 alumni, staff and friends of the College. All the kids - and kids at heart - had a great time.



Patty Nevola Testa '00 is ready for a trip down the track with help from a Yawgoo staff member.



Members of the Class of 1954 at Sanibel resort (l to r) Nancy Welch Goulet, Corinne O'Brien Murphy, President John Nazarian and Lillian Connelly DeGiulio.

New Alumni Directory available



The 2004 Rhode Island College Alumni Directory has been completed as displayed (at left) by Ellie O'Neill, Alumni Affairs director.

If you are one of the several thousand alumni who placed an order for a directory or the CD-ROM, shipment is under-way from The Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc.

If you have questions about the directory, such as when you can expect to receive your copy, or billing inquiries, or would like to place an order, please feel free to call Harris Customer Service toll-free at 1-800-877-6554 or email inquiry@bcharrispub.com.



London and Rita Dawson Lloyd '36.



The Class of 1947 had a great turn-out in Fort Myers. Pictured left to right: Mary Holton McKenney, Alice Bigbee Goulet, Lee Clancy Breig, Marion McCarthy Rooney and Ellen Fay Shannon.

Address : www.RIC.edu/GiveNow

Sesquicentennial Memories

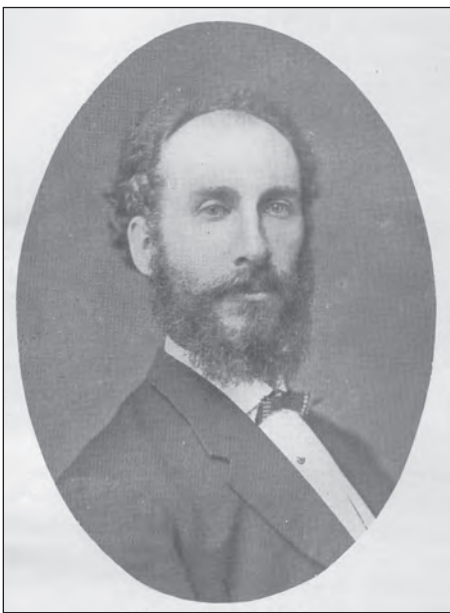


The General Assembly votes to re-establish the Rhode Island Normal School

During the course of the College's Sesquicentennial observance, Michael Smith, assistant to the president, periodically contributes to What's News at Rhode Island College a brief glimpse of an historic College event that occurred at some point in the institution's history corresponding to the publication date of that particular edition of What's News. This is the 12th installment.

On Tuesday, February 28, 1871, State Education Commissioner Thomas W. Bicknell ventured to the Old State House on Benefit Street to hear the State Senate debate a measure to re-establish the Rhode Island Normal School, which had ceased operations in July of 1865. What Bicknell did not know was that he would be called upon to lead the debate on the floor of the Senate, then, as in the years since, an extraordinarily rare occurrence.

In a third-person narrative, Bicknell himself describes this event in his 1911 book, *The Story of the Rhode Island Normal School*:



THOMAS W. BICKNELL

At 11 a.m., Commissioner Bicknell left his office for the Senate chamber in the old State House on Benefit street, to listen to the debate on the bill. Taking his seat in the lobby, he waited the hour of debate.

At 11 a.m., Governor Padelord announced that the bill for a Normal School was the special order of the day, and called on the secretary of state, Joshua M. Addeman, to read the bill.

After its reading, Sidney M. Dean, Senator from Warren, arose and said: "Mr. President and

Senators, we have come to the hour for consideration and action on one of the most important measures of the session; a measure of vital interest to all the people of Rhode Island, in that it has to do with the education of teachers, who are to aid in the education of our children.

There is a gentleman in the Senate chamber, who is the leader in the movement for a State Normal School, and who is familiar with the arguments in its favor far beyond the members of this body.

I refer to Hon. Thomas W. Bicknell, our Commissioner of Public Schools. I move, Mr. President, that the Honorable Commissioner be

invited to address the Senate on the bill now before this body, and to that end, that the Senate now take a recess, to reconvene after his address."

Senator Dean's motion was seconded and passed and the Senators, in the recess, kept their seats, and Governor Padelord invited Mr. Bicknell to address the Senate from the president's platform.

The Commissioner was surprised by this most unusual, unprecedented and most unexpected turn of affairs, while the high compli-

ment overcame the surprise, and decision and action were immediate.

Mr. Bicknell spoke over an hour, setting forth in the strongest arguments at his command, the reason for establishing a Normal School in Rhode Island. At the close of his address, questions were asked by several Senators as to the features of the bill, among which were the amount of the appropriation, the location of the school, the number of teachers, probable number of pupils, etc.

Senator Powell, of Newport, while questioning took occasion to state his position, and his early objections to a Normal School in Rhode Island, as intimated in the quotation from his letter.

It was one o'clock when Governor Padelord called the Senate to resume its session, and without debate, Senator Dean, of Warren, moved the passage of the bill, which was seconded by several Senators, and on a viva voce vote, no Senator voting against the bill, the Governor declared the bill passed by unanimous vote.

At this point, Senator Nathaniel Peckham, of South Kingstown, stated that he wished to make some remarks on the bill, and would like to have it laid on the table until the next morning.

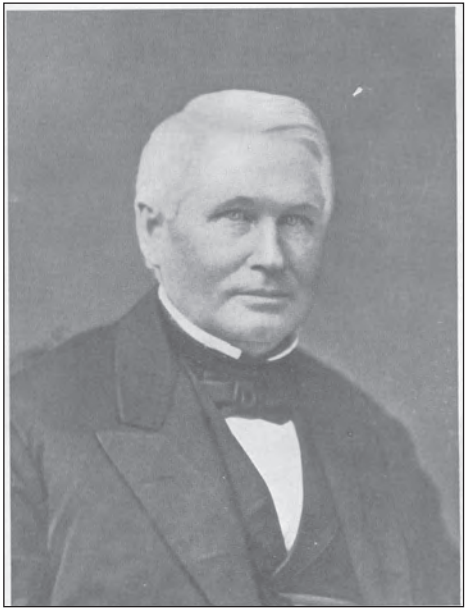
In courtesy to the Senator, the bill was so disposed of, and at the next session, the Senator said he had decided not to speak upon the bill, and on motion of Senator Dean it was passed by the Rhode Island Senate, by an unanimous vote, March 1, 1871.

The measure would be trans-

mitted to the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where it would be unanimously recommended by the Committee on Education and subsequently passed unanimously by the full House, becoming law on March 15, 1871, along with an appropriation of \$10,000 for the first year of operations.

On March 16, 1871, *The Providence Journal* editorialized thusly:

"The friends of common schools will rejoice to see that the project of establishing a



GOV. SETH PADELORD

State Normal School has been received with so much favor, and will watch its further progress with profound interest. Its successful finality must be regarded a signal triumph of the cause of popular education in our State, and the assured precursor of better teachers and better schools."

(Not just) academically speaking

RIC student body reflects the faces of Rhode Island

Who are the "typical" Rhode Island College students? Where do they come from, what level of academic preparation do they bring, and how do they gain admission?

Each fall, more than 80 percent of the students who join us are from Rhode Island. The rest are from Massachusetts, Connecticut and other states throughout the country. We also attract a small number of students from foreign countries.

Two-thirds of our students are female and most of our students are of traditional college age. More than half are first generation college students. Eighty-five percent are white. The remaining 15 percent are Hispanic, black, Asian-American/

Pacific Islanders, American-Indian/Alaskan Natives, and those who categorize themselves as "other" (usually students who check more than one racial category or none at all). Not surprisingly, English is not the native language of 10 percent of our freshmen. The reported median family income for our students is slightly higher than \$55,400.

Those are the tangible statistics. The intangibles are that Rhode Island College students are committed, competent individuals who are determined to succeed in college despite the number of socio-economic challenges that many of them face every day. The challenge for the Admissions Office is to review each applicant's credentials and determine if Rhode Island College is the right fit.

There are several admission programs that are designed to provide an opportunity for qualified students to gain admission. The majority of students join us through the Traditional Admission program. This is the student who is a good solid citizen in high school, some-

one who consistently applied him/herself throughout the high school experience, the result being an overall achievement of a class rank in the top 50 percent and a 3.0 GPA. Other programs for admission are the Honors Program, the Presidential Scholarship Program, and the Feinstein Scholarship Program.

A small percentage of our students who fall just short of our traditional admission requirements join us via one of our Alternative Admission programs: The Preparatory Enrollment Program (Rhode Island students only), Performance Based Admissions program (older students), Provisional Admission (low achievement - high SAT-I), Conditional (an obvious weakness that can be addressed and strong in other areas).

Approximately 40 percent of the students we enroll each fall are transfer students, most from the Community College of Rhode Island. RIC and the University of Rhode Island have an articulation agreement with CCRI. Students who

meet the requirements of the articulation agreement are guaranteed admission to RIC.

The College also works in conjunction with several high school programs to attract qualified inner city and racial/ethnic minority students, such as the Upward Bound (TRIO Program), Mount Pleasant Teacher Academy (collaboration between Providence School Department/RIC/City, Educational Talent Search (TRIO Program), and Children's' Crusade (Gear Up, a funded mentor program)

So, who are the typical Rhode Island College students?

They are a microcosm of the larger society. They are students who go on to graduate and graduate school, and distinguish themselves by working in the fields of medicine, education, politics, technology, fine and performing arts, and a host of other areas. They are our parents, our brothers and sisters, our friends, our children...they are you and I.

They are the faces of Rhode Island.



by Deborah Johnson, Associate Director of Admissions

Gonsalves

Continued from page 1

Cahir ’89, a longtime friend of Gonsalves.

A scholarship in his name was the perfect way to do this, said Cahir. “Mike was a fixture on the campus for many years. Even after he graduated, he would sing RIC’s praises on his radio show, visit the (campus) radio station and mentor the disc jockeys, and attend fraternity meetings,” Cahir said.

Cahir said that Gonsalves was “generous to a fault,” often treating his friends to tickets to sporting events or lavishing gifts on their children. “The scholarship is another way that Mike just keeps on giving,” Cahir added.

Artie Tefft, another close friend

of Gonsalves, agreed. He said his family misses Gonsalves and always will. “Something happens every day to remind me of him, and I’m sure that will continue for years to come.”

Gonsalves’ father, Neil Gonsalves, is a professor of biology at the College. He said that he and his family are very happy that his son’s friends took charge of the project and sustained his memory in this way, and hopes the scholarship will become an annual award.

“I think it’s wonderful that we can get this (scholarship) off the ground so quickly, and that we are taking care of our own students,” Neil Gonsalves said. He added that though the scholarship is intended for students somehow connected to the fire, eventually there will be no more of these people in need, and it will be given to communications students.

The Doc Fund, established by Clear

Channel Radio, which owns WHJY, the radio station where Gonsalves was employed, contributes one third of the funds it collects to RIC’s Gonsalves scholarship fund. The remainder of that money goes to the Station Nightclub Fire Relief Fund to help support fire victims and their families.

A week after the fire, Gonsalves’ fraternity brothers trudged through ice and falling snow to paint the rock on College Road with the words, “In memory of Gonzo,” a stark reminder that their friend would not be returning to the campus.

“He was the best friend anyone could ever have,” said Cahir. He said that if Mike were alive, he would tell students not to forget where you came from.

According to his friends, Mike never did.



ETCHED IN STONE: The rock on College Road is painted in memory of “Gonzo,” aka, Michael Gonsalves.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Michael J. Gonsalves ’86 Scholarship Endowment Fund can send a check, payable to the Rhode Island College Foundation, with **DOC SCHOLARSHIP FUND** written on the memo line, to 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908.

All gifts will be acknowledged. The Gonsalves family will be notified of contributions.

Five-year State Improvement Grant receives funding for second year

Rhode Island College’s Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities received \$600,075 from the state Department of Education as part of a five-year State Improvement Grant awarded to Rhode Island by the U.S. Department of Education in 2002. The funding is for the period November 1, 2003 to October 31, 2004.

This project, now in its second year, is a “collaboration of state agencies, higher education, schools, family organizations, leadership organizations, and others,” said Anthony Antosh, director of the

Sherlock Center. The goals of the State Improvement Grant are (1) To ensure that all students with disabilities are taught by highly qualified teachers; (2) To expand the opportunities available to children with disabilities to participate in the general curriculum and to improve the performance of these children on state assessments and other outcome measures; and (3) To develop and inform educational leaders who will facilitate the participation and progress of children with disabilities in the general curriculum.

Unusual delicacies on the menu at the Phylum Party, set for March 25

The Biology Department, with the support of the Biology Club and other interested biology students, is sponsoring a Phylum Party on Thursday, March 25 in the Fogarty Life Science Biology Lounge from 5-7:30 p.m.

Chef Frank Terranova of Johnson & Wales University, and NBC10’s *Cooking with Class* show will be the special guest judge.

This party offers the opportunity to

sample morsels of food from many different and unusual phyla, including the kingdoms of *Fungi* and *Eubacteria*.

The cost for faculty, staff and parents is \$10; students \$5; and administrators \$20. Tickets must be purchased by March 18, through the Biology Department office in Fogarty Life Science room 252 (401-456-8010). Proceeds from this event go to support biology student awards, prizes and scholarships.



OUT TO AFRICA: The two first grade classes in Henry Barnard School, taught by Joan Bloom and Pam Manninen, are preparing to send school supplies collected by the pupils to a school in the Bafokeng Territory of South Africa. Above from left are first graders Hayden Ross, 7; Adebambo Osinaga, 6; Nicholas Wilkins, 6; and Capri Lamboy, 6.

MFA program

Continued from page 1

of RIC, Trinity Rep’s Education Department, Perishable Theatre, The Providence Black Repertory Theatre, and AS220.

Oskar Eustis, artistic director of Trinity Rep, noted that the MFA program is a “direct continuation of mixing professional theatre with academic theatre – mixing them into a curriculum of incredible achievement, expanding and enhancing options.”

In a letter of support to the College, Mark J. Lerman, artistic director of Perishable Theatre, said, “I congratulate the faculty and leadership of the Arts and Sciences at Rhode Island College for their vision and commitment to this innovative and groundbreaking new program.”

Beginning in September of 2004, Performance & Society MFA classes will be offered. Stage Management and Technical Theatre MFA classes will start in September of 2005. Each degree option will take three years to complete.

Performance & Society is a conservatory-styled professional acting and directing program that also focuses on the role of theatre in the community. Students will intern in Providence theatres and help produce programs in schools and local groups. In addition, students can obtain provisional certification to teach K-12 theatre and eventually qualify for a five-year certification.

“The Performance & Society program will provide graduate students from all over the country the opportunity to learn how to use their artistic talents to work with individuals in the public schools, rehabilitation centers, senior centers, prisons,

half-way houses, or wherever their creative potential may lead them,” said P. William Hutchinson, professor of theatre. Hutchinson had, until recently, coordinated the graduate theatre program at RIC for 22 years.

Students in the Stage Management and Technical Theatre programs will learn to write, direct, perform in, manage and design complete productions. And as part of the Trinity Rep Consortium, they will interact with the acting and directing components of Brown’s program. Both programs will include courses in drama history and literature.

Stage Management candidates will also study labor issues and public policy, while those in Technical Theatre will be taught drafting, structural design and theatre and performance history.

RIC’s affiliation with Trinity Rep dates back to 1982, when the two institutions developed an

Independent Masters Degree program. By 1994, the program evolved into a MFA degree program in theatre. As of May 2003, RIC had graduated approximately 60 IMA students, 56 MFA acting students and seven MFA directing students.

Now, after being absent for the 2003-04 academic year, the MFA in theatre program is back and “greater than ever,” said Weiner. “It not only fully constitutes Oskar Eustis’s vision of a consortium, but also, in establishing the Downtown Theatre Collaborative, creates a unique graduate program centered around theatre engaging schools and communities,” he said. “This will be the most directed effort of this kind in the USA.”

Student recruitment for RIC’s new MFA theatre program is already underway. For information, contact Richard Weiner at 456-8107 or rweiner@ric.edu.

Decision 2004: RIC students get ‘up close and personal’ with presidential candidates in New Hampshire

by David Cranshaw '05
What's News Intern

Rhode Island College students got a firsthand look at the presidential campaigns of the democratic hopefuls and experienced the excitement leading up to the first primary in the nation in 2004 in New Hampshire.

Nine students visited New Hampshire January 22-25 to hear the candidates' final attempts to persuade voters before the primary on January 27.

"It was a chance to take the theory and discussion from the classroom to reality," said Kay Israel, associate professor of communications, who accompanied the students on the trip. "It is one thing to look at a topic under a microscope, it is another to experience it."

The excursion offered students the opportunity to explore retail politics, said Valerie Endress, assistant professor of communications, who planned the trip.

"The New Hampshire Primary and the Iowa Caucus provides a unique opportunity to see the political process up close and personal. In the contests following, the media controls much of the coverage, and it's less likely that citizens have the opportunity to interact with candidates."

After traveling around the state, the students determined that voter apathy would not be an issue in this election.

"Seeing hundreds of people wanting to hear candidates speak shows me that Americans are still passionate about politics," said junior political science major Diane Ascencao.

"I loved how everywhere you went people knew who the candidates were and asked for your opinions," said sophomore communications major Nicole Giambusso.

Students who went to New Hampshire will take their knowledge of the political process to area high schools to educate future voters. Displays will be erected around the RIC campus to showcase 2004 election memorabilia. Those in



ABOVE: RIC students hear how Senator John Kerry will appeal to voters at a rally days before the nation's first primary of 2004, in New Hampshire. Kerry was supported by Rhode Island Representative Patrick Kennedy (right) and his father, Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy, (center) at the rally. (Photo by Kay Israel, RIC associate professor of communications.)

INSET: RIC senior Jennifer Demers asks Kerry a question at the College Convention 2004 held January 7-10 in New Hampshire. (Photo by RIC freshman Matthew Stott)



Whipple Hall, Adams Library and Gaige Hall will showcase campaign buttons, signs, bumper stickers and pictures from the New Hampshire primary.

This was not the first time this election year that RIC students got a look at the 2004 election process in New Hampshire. Twenty-two students attended College Convention 2004 at New England College in Manchester from January 7-10 to hear candidates appeal to the younger generation. RIC was the only school in Rhode Island that was represented at the conference.

Seven of the then nine major Democratic candidates spoke to the contingent of about 600 high school and college students representing 38 states. The candidates included senators John Kerry (Massachusetts), and John Edwards (North Carolina),

former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, Representative Dennis Kucinich (Ohio), Senator Joe Lieberman (Connecticut), retired General Wesley Clark and former Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun. (Lieberman, Clark and Braun have since left the race.)

"We want to promote greater civic awareness and engagement among young people," said Wayne Lesperance, co-director of the convention.

Some RIC students received face time from local and national media outlets. PBS interviewed juniors William Senecal, Robert Kalaskowski and April Arnold for a documentary on the impact of third-party candidates on the presidential election.

Kalaskowski also talked to a reporter from the *Baltimore Sun*, to voice his support for Clark.

Sophomore Michael Philbin spoke to *politicsNH.com* about the role religion played in politics. Senior Jennifer Demers and Arnold were part of a piece that ran on College Sports Television (CSTV) that tied sports to politics. They were asked to identify the candidate they supported and to choose a sport the candidate would play if not involved in politics.

"The convention allowed students with all different morals, values and beliefs to come together to have the opportunity to appreciate and better understand politics and make the best decision possible to vote for president of the United States," said Arnold.

Lesperance said he hoped the participants would gain a greater awareness of the issues that affect them and the ability to interact with those candidates who seek the highest office in the land.

The two trips were a continuation of a course taught jointly in the fall semester by Endress and Israel. The class, "Communication and the 2004 Presidential Campaign: Surfacing to the Primary," let students follow a candidate for the semester and become their alter-ego.

Each student chose a candidate to cover for the semester and ended the course with a presentation acting as that candidate's political consultant, offering ideas and suggestions to improve the campaign.

The course is continuing this semester, now focusing on "Convention to Election." Victor Profughi, professor of political science, will join Endress and Israel in teaching the course.

Plans are in progress to visit the Democratic and Republican national conventions this summer, to be held in Boston and New York respectively.

Media Appreciation Night

On January 27, RIC's media partners were invited to attend a reception and the performance of George Wein's Newport Jazz Festival. The event was to thank members of the media for their continued support and coverage of the College.



NEWS ANCHOR FRANK COLETTA (left) of NBC10's Sunrise Show chats with College President John Nazarian.



ABOVE (l to r) KIERAN KEATING of RI Monthly Magazine, Don Fowler of Beacon Communications and Providence Journal's Ray Adams talk shop. (Inset): Steve Bianchi and Lynn Abrams of radio station WADK enjoy the party.

Black History Month...

Unity Center seeks to enhance RIC's multicultural experience

Aaron Bruce describes RIC's Unity Center as the "cultural hub of the campus community." As the center's recently appointed director, he's working to encourage greater understanding and appreciation of the ethnic and cultural diversity on campus.

Bruce, who is from Princeton, New Jersey, joined the College on January 5. He brings two aspects of his previous work history that he intends to apply in his new role: the business wisdom gained working in international marketing for corporations, and his having worked most recently in a community college in his home state, which, like RIC, has a large commuter student population.

He said that his business experience in particular will be helpful in the marketing and fund-raising activities needed for the job. His background will also aid in establishing new mentoring programs with corporations, he added.

This month, The Unity Center is busy promoting the College's celebration of Black History Month with a full schedule of events related to the African American experience (see below right). In the spring, the Diversity in Technology Luncheon Series will debut, focusing on ways that underrepresented groups can become a part of the technology

field.

Two major events are planned for October - a Sister-to-Sister Conference on leadership for women of color, and an African American and Hispanic leadership conference for males. These companion events are open to college and high school students. Both will feature workshops on empowerment, business etiquette, building relationships and more.

Bruce is currently creating a cultural resource room in The Unity



Center. A one-stop information shop, it will contain books, magazines, CDs and art related to multiculturalism. Students will also be able to find listings of various diversity conferences and meetings and explore scholarship opportunities for minorities.

Unity Center Mission Statement

The Unity Center is Rhode Island College's multicultural center. It promotes opportunities for exploring human dignity, social identity, and cultural equity.

The Center fosters collaborative programming among its student affiliations, faculty and the local community. It is committed to challenging stereotypes, racism, apathy, and gender discrimination. The Center's concern is to maintain global awareness by responding to current events while preparing others to be productive citizens of the world.

The Center is also a place where students can engage their peers and faculty about what is being taught in the classroom and is a space for dialogue and discussion. We strive to preserve, bolster, and enrich students' cultural, social, and ethnic identity.

The Unity Center is located in the Donovan Dining Center, Lower Level

(401) 456-8791

abruce@ric.edu

Aaron Bruce — Director of the Unity Center



- Born and raised in Princeton, New Jersey.

- Holds an International MBA from United States International University and a BA in economics and political science from Michigan State University.

- Held management positions in both Latin America and Africa.

- Conducted research in management and education in Cuba, Mexico and Kenya.

- Advocate for the utilization of technology in overseas study.

- Joined RIC January 2004.

- Why he chose this kind of work: "I realized my heart was in helping students as opposed to helping corporations make more money."

- Why he came to RIC: "An excellent opportunity and a great challenge."

- On becoming a part of the College: "People were warm, receptive, welcoming."

- He plans to..."learn a lot more about the Rhode Island community."

Upcoming events in conjunction with Black History Month

Feb 16

Remember the Titans - Movie and Discussion

Moderators: Thomas Lavin and Aaron Bruce; Student Union Ballroom; 4-6 p.m.; free

Feb 18

Black History Month Extravaganza – Step Performance, Poetry Speakers, Free Food, Music and Dance Performance
Student Union Ballroom; 6 p.m.; (Harambee); free

"Youth HIV Prevention Through Theater" – a Performance by Project Ujima; Student Union Ballroom; 12:30-2 p.m.; free

Comedy – Featuring Retta
Student Union Café; (Programming Board); 8 p.m.; free

Feb 19

Hip Hop Story of *Rome & Jewels*

Rennie Harris' PureMovement; Performing Arts Series; Auditorium in Roberts Hall; 8 p.m.; reserved seating \$26 (discounts for students/seniors)

Feb 23

The 15th Annual Gospel Music Praise Ensemble –
In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center; 7 p.m.; \$3

Every Sunday

Capoeira Demonstration – Learn the Ancient Techniques of Afro Brazilian Martial Arts
(Rhode Island College Capoeira Association-RICCA);
Student Union Ballroom; 8 p.m.; free

Black History Knowledge Contest – Big Prizes!
Contact the Unity Center at (401) 456-8791 for more information

March 20

Harambee Step Explosion – Roberts Hall Auditorium; 7 p.m.; details to follow

at Rhode Island College

Phenomenal Females: the Women of Rhode Island College

The Normal School's first woman of color

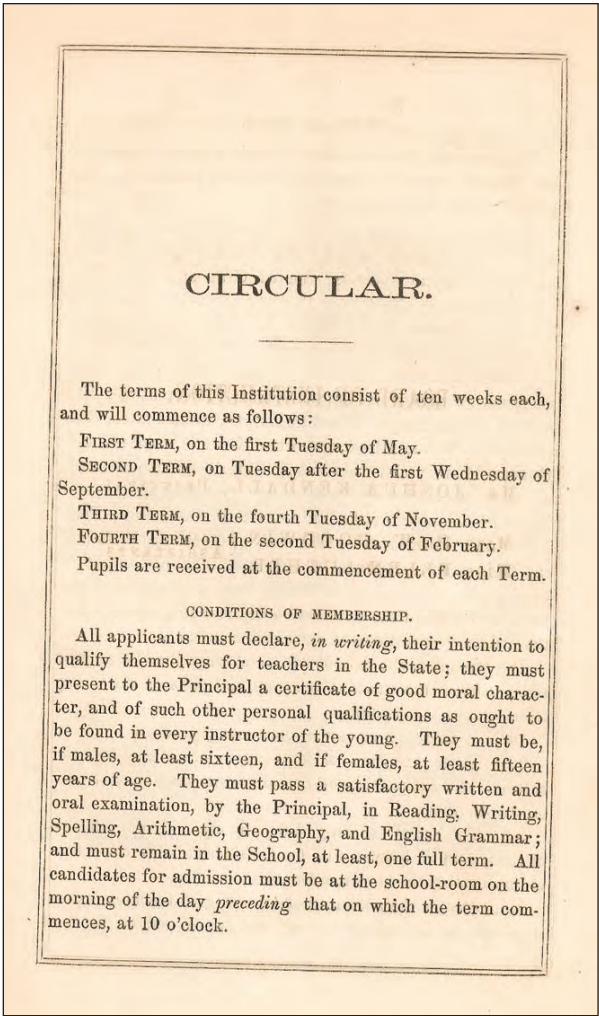
By Marlene Lopes, Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor in the James P. Adams Library

When did the first person of color graduate from Rhode Island College? This deceptively simple question set me on a slow motion roller coaster search through the College's archives and special collections. Along the way there were many dead ends, several mysteries, some surprises, and, at last, a plausible

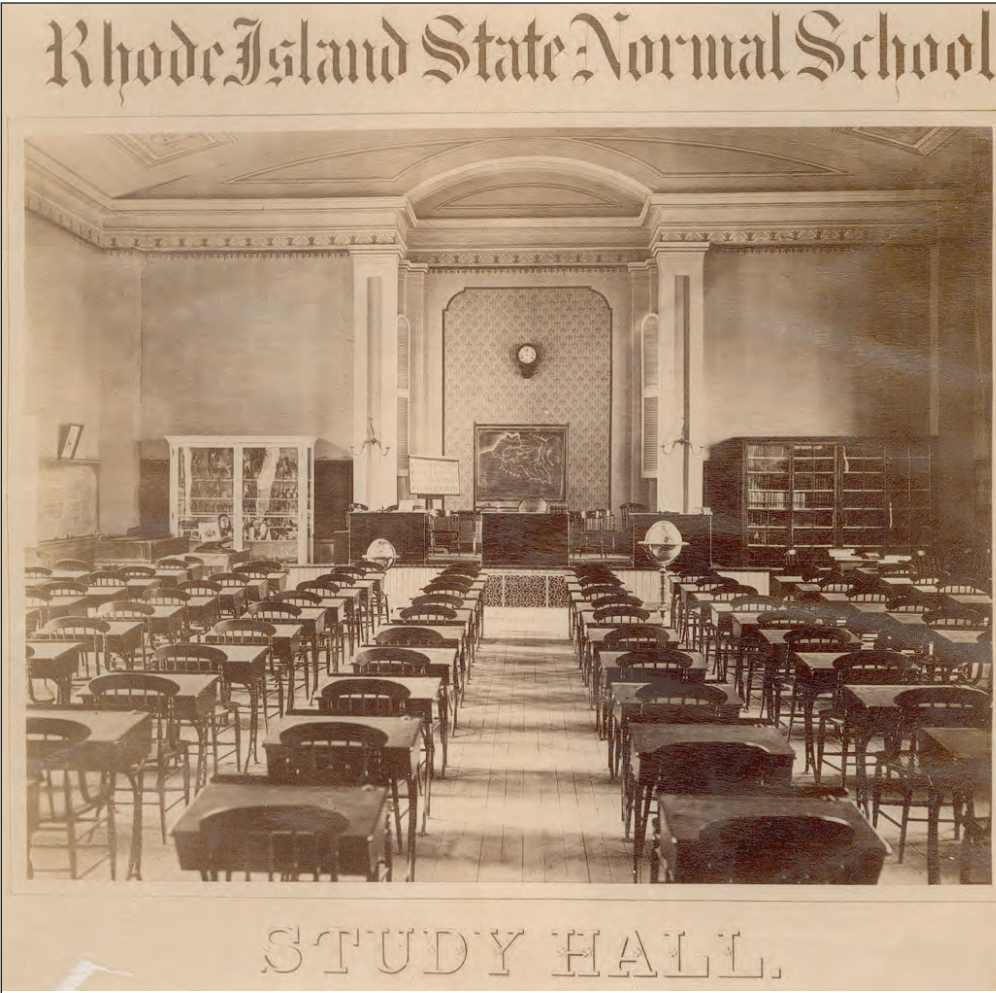
She earned respect as one of the best teachers in the state. During the late 19th century when African American women's groups were routinely excluded from national women's clubs, she gained fame as a co-founder and leader of the National Association of Colored Women, an umbrella organization for state and local clubs that strove to achieve social and educational reform and to end racial and gender discrimination. An activist in the movement to "educate and uplift" the Negro race, she became famous as a writer and

dent registers record the names, gender, and ages of applicants, their hometowns, and the names of their fathers, but make no references to race or ethnicity. Treasure troves of detailed Rhode Island College history, such as Thomas W. Bicknell's *History of the Rhode Island Normal School, 1871-1911* (1911) and the *Memoir of Dana Pond Colburn, First Principal of the R.I. State Normal School* (1862), are bereft of race-related data.

Photographs of early graduates are rare, and yearbooks, as we know them, did not appear until 1926. The names of graduates and their home cities or towns, published cumulatively from 1854 to 1860 and annually from 1872 through 1938 in the school catalogs, provide clues to ethnicity. More importantly, they allow us to verify information about graduates and their tenure here. With the Normal School Catalog for 1879 I was able to confirm that Josephine A. Silone of Newport, R.I. graduated in June of that year. A later listing provided an address in Kansas City and the name of her husband, William W. Yates. Returning to the Internet I hunted for the names of other early graduates by combining terms that would incorporate race (COLORED, OF COLOR, NEGRO, AFRICAN AMERICAN, etc.), the NORMAL SCHOOL, and RHODE ISLAND. Along with many false leads this process yielded the name of



SCHEDULE and entry requirements from the RI State Normal School's Catalog and Circular, 1860. This publication also lists the names of that year's graduates, which includes Clementine Tweedy, one of the first African Americans to graduate from the school.



answer. In outlining my quest I share with you one of the lesser known stories of the College's 150-year history. In last summer's special Sesquicentennial edition of *What's News* I identified two very early African American graduates. Rose Butler Browne, for whom Browne Residence Hall is named, was born in Boston in 1897 and received her certificate from the Normal School in 1919. Recent research has indicated that Josephine Silone Yates, another outstanding educator, predated Dr. Browne by 40 years. Originally from New York, she had been sent to live with an aunt in Newport where she became not only the first graduate of color at Rogers High School but also the valedictorian of her class. In 1879, fourteen years after the end of the Civil War, she received her certificate, with honors, from the Rhode Island State Normal School. Afterward she traveled west to Lincoln Institute in Jefferson, Missouri where, as its first female professor, she taught chemistry and later served as chair of its natural science department.

speaker. Two biographical sources proclaim that Josephine Silone Yates was *probably* this school's first graduate of color. But were they correct? An Internet search under her name brought professional achievements to light, but revealed nothing about her life at the school. Was she a pioneer in breaking barriers of race or had she enrolled here because there were no barriers? Whose footsteps might she have followed, and how could I find out? Nothing in the founding documents or recruitment literature of the Normal School indicates that race was ever a factor of enrollment. Early stu-

Fanny Jackson-Coppin, the first female principal of the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia (later known as Cheney State College), a popular speaker, writer, and activist for women's rights, founder of the Women's Exchange and Girls Home for students and female workers, civic leader, and overseas missionary. Her graduation from the Normal School was in 1860. Born into slavery in 1837, Frances Jackson was 12 years old when an aunt purchased her freedom for \$125 and sent her north to live with relatives, first in New Bedford and later in Newport. Employed as a domestic, she attended public school for a short time and used her salary to pay for a private tutor and piano lessons. With the encouragement of her employers, her desire

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STATE NORMAL SCHOOL Senior A Class, spring term, 1893.



This continuing series in What's News will feature RIC grads whose career paths have taken some unusual turns.

Solange “Sally” Sevigny-Skyer ’73

Earning a BS in elementary education/special education from Rhode Island College may not seem that unusual, but for Sally Skyer, it certainly took a lot of determination.

Skyer is profoundly deaf. She was born that way as a result of an inherited condition on her father’s side of the family. She attended classes and completed her coursework without

encouragement forced her to persist in spite of frustrations about her communication skills and personal setbacks.

Following class lectures was her greatest challenge. “I was only able to lip read 30 to 35 percent of what my professors presented. I was too shy to ask classmates for copies of class notes,” she said. “As a voracious reader, I made up for what I missed in



SALLY SKYER

the benefit of support services such as language interpretation, tutoring or notetaking.

For the last 25 years, Skyer has worked as a professor and college counselor at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York, one of the colleges within the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Skyer was raised in Woonsocket by hearing parents. She attended mainstream schools in the Providence area, and learned to speak and lip read through the Windmill Street School’s program for deaf and hearing impaired students. She graduated with honors from Central High School in Providence, and aspired to a college degree.

“My desire to be gainfully employed as a professional, to be independent from my family, and to prove my capabilities, regardless of my deafness were the reasons for wanting to attend college,” Skyer said. Like many RIC students, she was the first person in her family to go to college.

Paul Sherlock, then head of the special education program at the College and long-time advocate for persons with disabilities, interviewed Skyer for acceptance to the College.

“While we talked, he smoked, chewed gum, turned his head sideways and mumbled to see if I was able to understand and hold a conversation with him,” she remembered.

Skyer credits Sherlock as her inspiration, saying that his

class discussions.”

She recalls freshman math as a “nightmare.” She passed music appreciation by rote memorizing to play *Mary Had a Little Lamb* on the piano. Then there were the student teaching assignments working with hearing children, which Skyer claims confirmed her desire to teach. Her evaluator was an experienced professor who initially doubted Skyer’s ability to instruct a class, but soon realized Skyer was no ordinary teacher and had a great deal to offer her students.

Despite the difficulties, Skyer appreciated not being treated differently than other students and that no exceptions were made for her deafness.

“I had to earn my grades through hard work. Today, deaf students have the benefit of sign language interpreters and note takers to make participating in class discussions possible,” she explains.

Skyer went on to earn a masters in counseling the deaf from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, and has received the Northeast USA Quota Deaf Woman Award and the International Quota Deaf Woman of the Year Award.

As a counselor, she is living proof to her students that deafness, or any disability, is not a good reason to give up on pursuing a dream.

Her students have something else in their favor – Sally Skyer to counsel them.

RIC undergrads and nurse leader join nursing honor society

Twenty-eight Rhode Island College senior nursing students and a nurse leader were inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing last December in a ceremony at the Quonset O Club in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

The new members were inducted through the honor society’s Delta Upsilon Chapter-at-Large.

Also, Jane Williams, chair of the nursing department at RIC, received the Louisa White Recognition Award for Nursing Leadership.

Sara Burton, a nursing student at the College, was presented an Undergraduate Scholarship Award.

Sigma Theta Tau International is an organization of nurse leaders, scholars, and researchers committed to improving the health of the public by advancing nursing science. The honor society, founded at Indiana University in 1922, currently has chapters at more than 523 college and university campuses worldwide.

Membership in the society is awarded to bachelors, masters, and doctoral candidates who achieve high scholastic averages, and to graduates of nursing programs who have made outstanding leadership contributions to nursing.

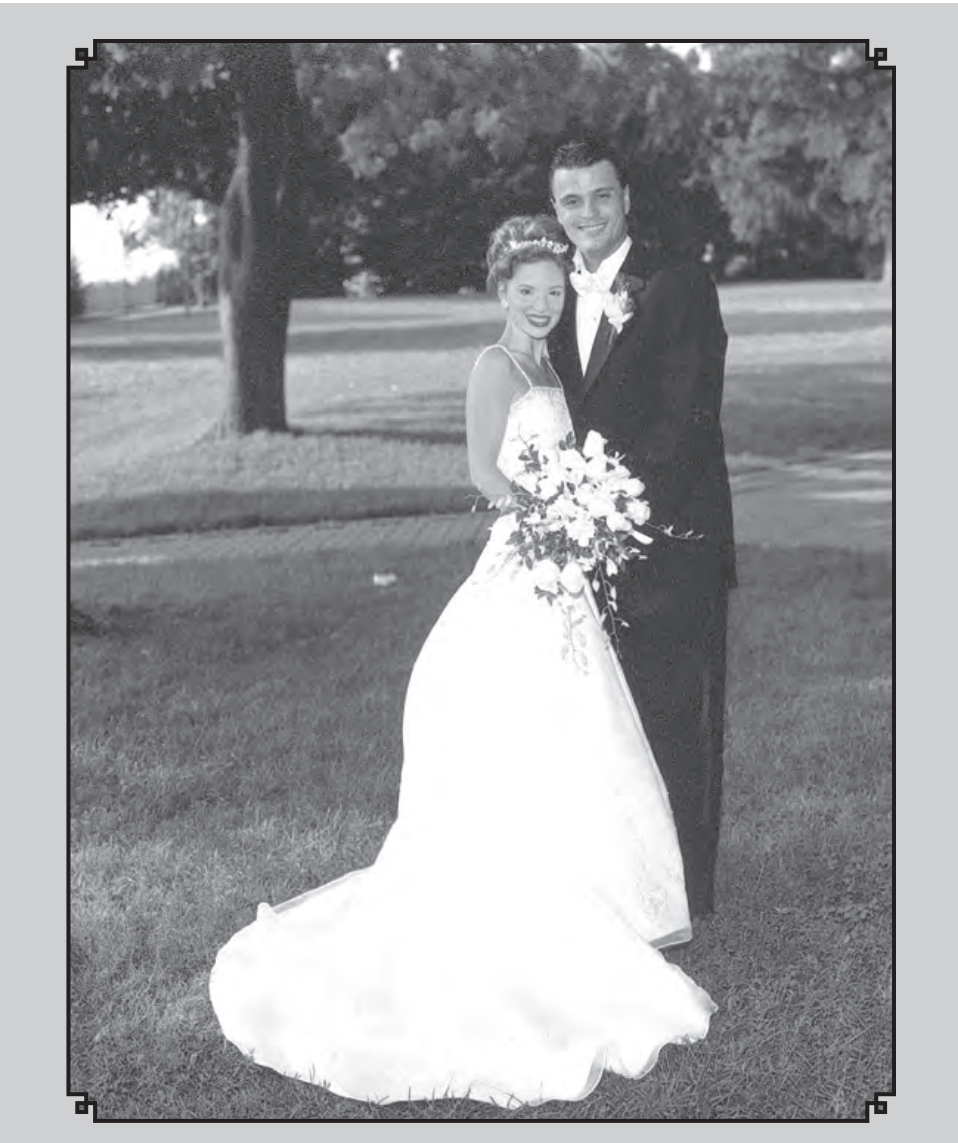


Sigma Theta Tau International Inductees:

RIC senior nursing students: Bamidele Adetunji, Alisyn Amylot, Kim Auclair, Lucy Baldes, Mary Baranski, RN, Sara Burton, Jessica Clegg, Tamara DeSousa, RN, Wendy Donnelly, Melanie Dubois, Kelly Dyndar, Kimberly Foster, RN, Melissa Furtado, Christina Goff, Christine Jardine, Joseph Kern, RN.

And, Kristen Lescault, Lori Leydon, Jessica Lovely, Rebecca Menard, Jennifer O’Brien, Theresa Paquette, Lisa Pate, John Pescarino, Lynn Provost, Steven Schlink, Donna Tsimortos, RN, Amy Veloz. Nurse Leader: Kristen Sayles, RN ’99.

Marriages Made at RIC



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Francisco Jr.

Jack and I met the last semester of our senior year (January 2001) in the class “Psychology of Women.” Jack was one of three guys in the class! I sat behind him. We dated and married on August 2, 2003.

— Amanda J. Houle

Women of RIC

Continued from page 9

to be educated and to teach others led her to the Normal School which was then located in Bristol.

After completing the program she enrolled at Oberlin College, the first four-year college in the U.S. to admit women and one of the first to accept students of all races. As the Civil War was being fought, she completed her studies with distinction and helped earn her way by providing piano lessons to the children of faculty.

At night she taught freed blacks in an adult education program that she started. She received her bachelors degree in 1865, making her one of the first American women of African descent to graduate from college. In her 37-year career at the Institute, Fanny Jackson-Coppin trained many future leaders and introduced a normal school program. Somewhat earlier than Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute, she also became a strong advocate for vocational training as well as academic preparation.

The Rhode Island General Assembly had established the Normal School in 1854. Could there have been another student of color who had enrolled before Jackson's arrival in 1860? According to its *Records, 1854-1863*, the Rhode Island Normal School opened its doors on Monday, May 29, 1854.

The first three days were devoted to the examination of candidates by the instructors. These written and oral exercises were intended to "test the intellectual ability of the candidates, their general fitness for the Normal School course, and their knowledge of the Common School studies, viz: - Reading, Spelling, Grammar, Geography, Mental Arithmetic and Written Arithmetic."

In the written portion, 10 questions were asked on each subject except reading, and five points were given for each correct answer. The oral exam tested their skills "in recitation and explanation and their quickness of perception, as well as their acquaintance with the various school studies."

In general, those who ranked low on the written part performed well during the oral portion and "gave such satisfactory evidence of proficiency and intellectual ability" that they were admitted without hesitation. In total, 23 applicants were accepted for the first term. The examining committee concluded, however, that the two remaining applicants, "both colored persons," were "manifestly in need of further preparation." Acting on the advice of these instructors, Mary L. Offee and Clementine Tweedy withdrew their applications.

In the written exam, Tweedy scored half as much as the highest test taker and 21 points higher than the lowest; Offee scored nine points below the lowest. Knowing nothing about the educational backgrounds of Offee and Tweedy makes it impossible to judge the accuracy or fairness of their evaluation.

We can only speculate on whether or not these written and oral tests were fair in nature or objective in delivery, and whether their results were indicative of intelligence or the ability to achieve success as a teacher.

Details in the records reveal that students entered the Normal School at different levels of maturity, some at the minimum age of 15 and oth-

ers well in their 20s. Most were single, but a few were married. Several were experienced teachers when they arrived; others dropped their course work when they were offered positions as teachers. In any case, the records say nothing further about Mary Offee.

Clementine Tweedy, on the other hand, reappears in the 1857 register of attendance, and we learn that she came from the city of Providence. The Catalog of 1860 lists her name among the graduates.

On September 11, 1854, the start of the second term of that initial year, it was recorded that "Miss Mary E. Watson, a colored girl from Newport, was examined, and though very deficient, was on account of some peculiar circumstances, allowed to enter on trial, leaving the question as to her final admission or rejection to be determined by her success as a student."

Could these peculiar circumstances have been addressed in the required letter of recommendation? Did she have the support of an influential person, perhaps an employer? Was she from one of the prominent Newport families and therefore someone to be reckoned with? A later entry commented, "Miss Watson, who was conditionally admitted to the school, made such manifest improvement as to

fully entitle her to the privileges of membership." Towards the end of the term the recorder made this observation:

It is worthy of notice, as indicating to some extent the liability to error in judging of the scholarship of individuals by the results of a written examination, that several of those who are marked very low in the table of results, have been among the best and most promising members of the school.

Watson completed her coursework in either 1855 or 1856. Hired to teach by the American Missionary Association, she traveled to Norfolk, Virginia. There, as part of a pioneering band of college educated Black women, she dedicated her efforts toward the education, elevation, and improvement of the status of escaped slaves and freedmen.

Although there is a slight possibility that someone else graduated before or with her, it is my conclusion that Rhode Island College's first graduate of color was Mary E. Watson, a member of the 1854 entering class of the Rhode Island Normal School.

This investigation introduced me to some truly phenomenal women. I was awed by the caliber of these early graduates and proud that so early on, this institution had opened its doors to all.

Dr. Rose Butler Browne Award

Nomination deadline: February 27, 2004

About the Award

The Rose Butler Browne Award was established in 1976 by friends and admirers of Dr. Browne, a 1919 graduate of Rhode Island College, who during her lifetime demonstrated outstanding leadership in professional and community affairs.



ROSE BUTLER BROWNE

The \$250 Award is funded by an endowment within the Rhode Island College Foundation.

Criteria for Nominations

The recipient must be a graduating senior enrolled at Rhode Island College and who has a grade point average of 2.5 or better. Nominees are expected to have completed at least 100 hours of voluntary or paid service to a disadvantaged population during the preceding year in a community agency or activity; for example, the Urban League, a rehabilitation center, or a community recreation center.

They are expected to have demonstrated their leadership potential through effective, current performance in a leadership role and through recognition of leadership skills by their peers or supervisors. Most importantly, recipients are expected to have a commitment to developing their leadership potential.

The award will be presented at the Cap and Gown Convocation on Wednesday, April 28, 2004.

As part of the selection process, applicants are required to have a letter of reference from their immediate supervisor in order to be considered. They also are expected to complete a personal statement.

Further Information

Contact the Career Development Center, Rhode Island College, (401) 456-8031. Sharon Mazyck, Chairperson, Dr. Rose Butler Browne Award.

Black History Month
2004

Celebrate the Spirit
of African Heritage

at Rhode Island
College

Male counterparts

Female students greatly outnumbered males during the early years of Rhode Island Normal School. (They still do today). The first entering class, consisted of 23 females and four males. However, I recalled reading a list of first year graduates that ended with the phrase "and one colored man."

Among the treasures in the archives is an oversized bound scrapbook, entitled *Rhode Island Normal School: 1854-1893*.

Created as part of Rhode Island's exhibition at the Columbia World's Fair in Chicago, this artifact chronicles the history of the Normal School through original documents, beautifully handwritten explanatory pages, and pristine photographs of classrooms and portraits of instructors, students, principals, and members of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Instruction.

One uncaptioned photograph, depicting nine soberly clad and formally posed men and women, caught my attention because standing in the middle of the second row was one man of darker facial appearance.

Was he the "one colored man?" With the exception of this mystery man, I was able to use the nearby text and labeled portraits to attach a name and status des-

ignation to each person in the photograph. With a magnifying glass I searched for his face in other group shots. Returning to the beginning of the scrapbook I carefully studied each page for clues to his identity. Finally, on the last page, I came upon the portrait of a man of color, as carefully suited and unsmiling as the other, but this time he did not wear a tie.



WILLIAM GROSS

The date appeared to be 1893, and the label underneath read "William Gross, Janitor." Perhaps this man was also a student, as my research assistant suggested, but his name did not appear on any of the lists.

Despite our determined efforts, however, we learned nothing more about Gross, except that the Board of Trustees voted on June 30, 1893 to raise his monthly salary to \$70.00. We, in fact, uncovered no evidence of the existence of any male graduates of color during the first 100 years of the College.

The phrase "and one colored man" that had stuck in my memory did reappear – as a red herring – following the names of 47 women and 6 men who had attended the first term of the Normal School of Rhode Island, a private institution in Providence that existed from 1852 to 1854.

— Marlene Lopes

Sports

From the Athletic Director's Desk

Memories of Mike Creedon, RIC grad and lifetime Hall of Famer



Donald E. Tencher
Director,
Intercollegiate
Athletics,
Intramurals
and Recreation

The Rhode Island College Athletic Department has lost a Hall of Famer and the State of Rhode Island has lost one of its finest citizens. Mike Creedon '70, M.Ed '73 passed away last month after losing an extended battle with cancer. Mike was a four-year starter for the men's basketball team at Rhode Island College from 1966 through 1970. He scored 1,468 points for the Anchormen, a total that ranks him eighth on the all-time scoring list. He played in 100 consecutive games, not missing a game over the course of his entire career. A modern-day "iron man," Mike displayed that same dedication to life as he

fought his illness, keeping active until the very end. Mike was a captain his senior year and led RIC to a New England Championship. The Anchormen, under Mike's leadership, averaged 100.4 points per game that season, a record that still stands today. As a junior in 1968-69, he helped lead the Anchormen to a 24-2 record, while they established Rhode Island College records for wins and winning percentage (.962) in a single season. Following his days at RIC, Mike went on to coach girls' basketball in Cranston schools for 16 years, all without a losing record. He coached the Western Hills Junior High team to the State Championship in 1993 and 1995. He coached Cranston High School West to the Division I Central League Championship and was named the 1997-98 Central Division Coach-of-the-Year. Mike graduated from Rhode Island College in 1970, earning a bachelors



MIKE CREEDON

degree in education. He earned a masters degree in education from RIC in 1973. Mike had been a technology teacher since 1970, and was the city-wide supervisor for technology education in Cranston since 1998. Mike Creedon was an outstanding alum and truly loved Rhode Island College. I know in my tenure at RIC that I haven't met anyone who deeply appreciated being a Hall of Famer more than Mike did. He was extremely supportive of the athletic program and our initiatives. In addition to being honored for his athletic achievements, Mike was honored last year by the RIC Alumni Association for his significant successes and contributions to

technology education in Cranston. Last week, while on a trip to Florida to meet alumni, I visited the winter home of Tom '73 M.Ed. and Maryann Dolan '70, M.Ed. '73. After exchanging greetings, Maryann's first words were how bad she and Tom felt about the passing of Mike Creedon. "In my life he was just one of the nicest people I have ever met," she said. I think Maryann summarizes how everyone felt about Mike, with his never-ending smile and always-upbeat attitude, he was one of the nicest people any of us will ever meet. Officially Mike didn't become a member of the Hall of Fame until 2002, but anyone whose life came in contact with Mike Creedon knows that he lived his life as a Hall of Famer. The Athletic Department wants to extend its deepest sympathy to Mike's wife Barbara and children Kevin and Colleen.

Deveau pins hopes on dedication, hard work

By Michael Christie,
Athletic Media Relations Intern

The sport of wrestling isn't for the weak-of-heart. Black eyes, bruised knees and broken arms are not uncommon in a match. Justin Deveau is one of those people who takes the risks and competes in one of the most grueling sports here at Rhode Island College. Deveau, a junior from North Attleboro, Mass. is currently the number one ranked wrestler in New England at 285 lbs. He has a 30-2 record with 129 points, 43 take-downs, eight reversals, 12 near falls and five pins. Deveau placed first at the Roger Williams and Citrus Invationals, and currently has a 19-match win streak, dating back to December 6. As a freshman at North Attleboro High School, Deveau joined the school's wrestling team, which was the first competitive wrestling for him. The 2001 graduate was the Massachusetts State Section Champion for his region, placed at the state championships three times, and also placed fourth in New England. Nearing the conclusion of his third season at Rhode Island College, Deveau already has been very successful as he has two All-New England honors under his belt. "I think I am doing well so far but I have yet to accomplish all of my goals," Deveau said. The heavyweight said that qualifying for the National Championships would be a good start to completing some of those goals. "Ultimately, I would like to win a New England Championship and a National Title," Deveau said. RIC Head Wrestling Coach Jay Jones echoes Deveau's sentiments on his goals of becoming a national champion. "Justin has been a potential All-American since his arrival at Rhode Island College," said Jones, "He has worked diligently and could easily have represented the New



IN CONTROL: Wrestler Justin Deveau gets the advantage on yet another opponent on his way to yet another super season.

England Conference at the National Championships as a sophomore last season but our qualifying format and the lack of votes kept him from that goal." While Deveau is well on his way to another accomplished and honored season, he is doing so in a brand new role. As a heavyweight, which is classified as 285 lbs., Deveau usually weighs in at about 225 lbs. Due to the fact that RIC is lacking an experienced heavyweight wrestler, Deveau at times must grapple with opponents who at times have had upwards of a 50-lb. advantage. The RIC heavyweight understands this and said that it is not always power that gets the job done. "I think it comes down to dedication and hard work." Deveau said, "It's not necessarily the person with the most talent or brute strength who is successful but it's the person who works the hardest that usually gets the win." Coach Jones agrees with Deveau's comments on hard work and said it has produced positive results for him this season. "Justin works harder than anyone in practice," said Jones. "He proved that he deserves a shot at National's when he upset Mike Blair of Trinity College who was ranked second in the nation at the time." As a team, the Anchormen currently have a 13-7 overall record

with an 8-4 NECCWA mark and a 3-0 Pilgrim League record. In upcoming action, RIC will look to finish the remainder of the season strong and head into the NECCWA tournament with positive momentum. If the Anchormen follow the leadership, both on the mat and off, of Justin Deveau, they should be in position for a successful finish to their winter season. Winter weather doesn't deter RIC's spring teams Although it's still cold, the Rhode Island College spring sports teams are preparing for their seasons. Both the baseball and softball teams spent the winter fund-raising to support their annual trips during spring break. The softball team goes to California to compete in the Sun West Tournament for the second consecutive season, with its first game March 7. The baseball team heads to Florida to play at the Clearwater Invitational March 6. The men's tennis team has been practicing at the Rec Center as they prepare for the season opener against Clark March 27. The women's lacrosse team has also been working out at the Rec Center readying for its opener at Salve Regina March 16. Most of RIC's men's and women's outdoor track and field team has been competing during the indoor campaign which lasts until March 6. The outdoor season begins March 27.

Sports Events

February 16 - March 8

Men's Basketball

Tues. Feb. 17, at Western Connecticut St. Univ.*, 7:30 p.m.

Sat. Feb. 21, at Keene State College *, 3 p.m.

Tues. Feb. 24, LEC Tourn. Playoffs, TBA

Fri. Feb. 27, LEC Tourn. Semi-Finals, TBA

Sat. Feb. 28, LEC Tournament Finals, TBA

* Little East Conference game

Women's Basketball

Tues. Feb. 17, at Western Connecticut St. Univ. *, 5:30 p.m.

Sat. Feb. 21, at Keene State College *, 1 p.m.

Tues. Feb. 24, LEC Tournament Playoffs,TBA

Fri. Feb. 27, LEC Tourn. Semi-Finals, TBA

Sat. Feb. 28, LEC Tournament Finals, TBA

* Little East Conference game

Wrestling

Sat. Feb. 21, at NECCWA Champ.^, 10 a.m.

Sun. Feb. 22, at NECCWA Champ.^, 10 a.m.

^ Hosted by WPI

Women's Gymnastics

Sat. Feb. 21, at Harriet Marranca Inv., 1 p.m.

Fri. March 5, Springfield ^ & Brown, 7 p.m.

Sun. March 14, at Brown w/MIT^ & Bridgeport, 1 p.m.

Sun. March 21, at ECAC Championships %, 1 p.m.

^ ECAC Div. III opponent % Hosted by MIT

Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field

Fri-Sat Feb. 20-21, at N. E. Div. III Championships %, 10 a.m.

Fri-Sat Feb. 27-28, at Open N.E. Championships & 5 p.m.

Fri-Sat March 5-6, at ECAC Div. III Championship %, 6 p.m.

% Hosted by Bowdoin

Arts & Entertainment

– Performing Arts Series –

Marionettes come to life in Shakespeare production

"Shakespeare on a String" is coming to Rhode Island College March 17 at a special curtain time of 7:30 p.m. The internationally renowned Salzburg Marionettes perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall.

The words of Shakespeare and music of Mendelssohn combine to create an enchanting performance filled with fantasy, charm and exciting visuals – sure to be a delight for the entire family.

The Salzburg Marionette Theater was founded in 1913, and has since become world famous through its annual performances in Salzburg,

Austria and countless international tours.

Through the years, its masterful puppeteers – and their lifelike puppets – have entranced audiences with presentations of fairy tale ballets and operas.

The sophisticated marionette productions created by Salzburg provide the perfect introduction to classical works for children and adults alike.

This year's Salzburg Marionette Theatre tour will also include performances of *Peter and the Wolf*, *The Magic Flute* and *The Barber of Seville*.



SALZBURG MARIONETTES

Keyboard Conversations® key in on Mozart

Jeffrey Siegel makes his third and final appearance this academic year Wednesday, March 3 in "There's More to Mozart than Amadeus!" a Keyboard Conversations concert presented as part of RIC's Performing Arts Series.

The program features the romantic side of Mozart as seen through *Variations on Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, *A Minor Rondo*, *C Minor Sonata* and *G Major Sonata*, a combination of songs that are in turn delightful, introspective, powerful and elegant. Also included

is the Providence premiere of unpublished piano pieces by

Antonio Salieri.

Billed as "concerts with commentary," Keyboard Conversations are "for anyone who loves music – or wants to love it even more." In each concert, Siegel attempts to deepen the audience's understanding and enjoyment of a composition by speaking informally about it before performing the work in full. He concludes the show with a lively question-and-answer session.

The tone of the show – entertaining and enthusiastic – is designed to attract newcomers to classical music and avid fans alike.



JEFFREY SIEGEL

Classical performer brings 'Romance of the Violin' to RIC



JOSHUA BELL

Academy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell was an unusual adolescent – at 14 he made his professional debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and soon after that, he performed at Carnegie Hall. Now in his 30s, Bell is a grown-up classical superstar, amassing over 20 years of highly successful recording, touring, collaborating and composing.

Local fans will have the chance to sample Bell's unique artistry when he and his accompanist Simon Mulligan appear Wednesday, March 24 in a Performing Arts Series concert made possible by a donation from College President John Nazarian.

Bell, who was born in 1967, has won numerous Grammys and his work on the film *The Red Violin* (1998) earned him an Academy Award for best soundtrack. He has played with many of the world's leading orchestras and has recorded 27 albums.

His latest CD, *Romance of the*

Violin, was released in October 2003. Claude Debussy's *The Girl With the Flaxen Hair*, Frederick Chopin's *Nocturne*, and Giacomo Puccini's *O mio babbino caro* are three of the mood-setting pieces that help make *Romance of the Violin*, in the words of one reviewer, "a regal stroll through a shimmering gallery of precious, if nearly lost, meanings of the phrase."

A native of Bloomington, Indiana, Bell currently lives in New York City, where he enjoys playing tennis and practicing on his violin of choice, a 1713 "Gibson ex Huberman" Stradivarius. Last year, he received the Indiana Governor's Art Award.

Though still youthful in appearance (he says he's often asked to show ID when ordering a cocktail), the former child phenom has continued to mature musically. Said *Newsweek*: "Bell has evolved from a technical whiz to a true artist and intellectual whose music feeds both your brain and your heart."

Chamber Music Series –

Two concerts warm up winter segment of Chamber Series

On February 25, Joseph Foley and the Narragansett Brass provide an afternoon of high-energy musicianship.

Foley, assistant professor of music at RIC, is also principal trumpet of the Rhode Island Philharmonic and a frequent performer with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops.

The international award-winning septet, The Afro-Rican Ensemble, takes the stage March 17, for a

Latin-flavored session that offers a unique take on established jazz traditions.

This exciting ensemble has become one of the premier jazz bands in the world thanks to blistering performances at festivals, music halls, and concert series.

Recently, the Afro-Rican Ensemble has enjoyed success in the Caribbean, playing the Jamaica Ocho Rios Jazz Festival and the Dominican Republic Jazz Festival.

RIC Dance Company — 45 and still dancing—

Spring Concert Series showcases six new works

By Dante Del Giudice,
RIC Dance Director

The Annual Spring Concert Series retains its status as the most ambitious program of the season with all new repertory acquired through residencies with local, regional, and national choreographers.

Guest and resident choreographers featured in the 45th Annual Spring Concert Series on March 4-7 will include Alexandra Beller (New York), Michael Bolger (Newport), Liam Clancy '95 (Los Angeles), Seán Curran (New York), Daniel McCusker (Boston) and RIC faculty member Melody Ruffin Ward. Performed by RIC dancers in the Auditorium in Roberts Hall, this program of all new 2003/04 repertory promises an evening full of diverse and engaging dance works.

Spring premiers will include a trio by Melody Ruffin Ward and works by Alexandra Beller and Liam Clancy acquired during "winter break" guest residencies in January. Beller's "or are you just glad to see me?" is a hard-hitting look at the offensive verbal mistreatment women suffer on the streets in urban centers like New York. Exposing a polemic suggesting female complicity in a ubiq-



RIC DANCE COMPANY

uitous, persistent, ingrained and tolerated misogyny, Beller suggests that one must acknowledge and reject this status quo. Clancy's *The Merry Chase* takes a metaphoric and

music, and Seán Curran's *Where I End and We Begin* restaged last fall with funding provided by Dance/USA's National College Choreography Initiative and the

humorous view of the individual's dilemma in negotiating the weight and import of society's inflated injunctions to succeed, perform, and conform.

Appearing again after premieres last fall will be Daniel McCusker's elegant *Companion Piece* to J.S. Bach's *Cello Concerto #1*, Michael Bolger's raucous and poignant *Still Restless* with traditional folk and Irish

National Endowment for the Arts.

Founded in the fall of 1958 by Billie Ann Burrill, associate professor emerita, with an inaugural performance in spring 1959, the RIC Dance Company grew under the leadership of Burrill and Fannie Helen Melcer, the late professor emerita, to become a collegiate force for dance advocacy and performance nearly unparalleled in its time.

This tradition continues today with further enhancements to academic and performance programming that make dance at RIC a vibrant and renowned program on campus and within the Rhode Island community.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 4-6 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 7. General admission is \$10 with discounts for seniors and students.

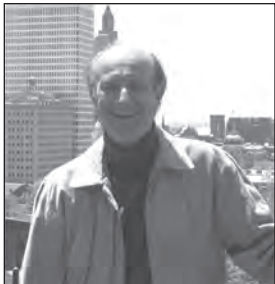
In celebration of RIC's Sesquicentennial and dance's 45th anniversary, student and community groups of eight or more will be provided with complimentary tickets as available.

Tickets for the Spring Concert Series are available at the Nazarian Center Box Office. For information please call Dante Del Giudice at 401-456-9791.

9th Annual Chester Performance Award Concert features international pianist, RI premiere

by Edward Markward
Professor of Music and RIC
Symphony Orchestra Conductor

The Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra will appear in the 9th Annual Samuel and Esther Chester Performance Award Concert March 22. The program will feature internationally acclaimed pianist Frederick Moyer as soloist in the Rhode Island premiere of David Ott's *Piano Concerto No. 2*.



EDWARD MARKWARD

The concert is offered free to the public because of the generosity of Samuel and Esther Chester. Each season, the grant pays the soloist's fee as well as partial cost of the orchestra.

Moyer, in his over 20 years as a full-time concert pianist, has established a vital and unique musical career that has taken him to 41 countries and to such far-flung venues as Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Sydney Opera House, Windsor Castle, the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, Tanglewood, and the Kennedy Center.

He has appeared as piano soloist with world renowned orchestras including the Cleveland, Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestras, the St. Louis, Dallas, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Houston, Boston, Singapore, Netherlands Radio, Latvian, Iceland, and London Symphony Orchestras and the major orchestras of Australia, among others.

Moyer's 20 recordings on the

Biddulph, GM and JRI labels comprise works by over 30 composers and reflect his affinity for a wide variety of styles. His enthusiasm, exacting artistry and adventurous programming have made him a favorite among audiences of all ages. He is well known for his residencies of one day to three weeks that combine major performances, master classes, workshops, school performances, and other activities to promote classical music within communities.

Moyer's recording with the London Symphony Orchestra of David Ott's *Piano Concerto No. 2* can be heard on the Jupiter label. Moyer last performed with the RIC Symphony Orchestra in March 2001.

Ott, who was born in 1947 in Crystal Falls, Michigan, has served as composer-in-residence with the Indianapolis Symphony and DePauw University. Among America's most sought-after composers, Ott has created a recognizable style based on a traditional palette admired by audiences and critics alike.

His works have been performed by major orchestras across America including those of Chicago, Milwaukee, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Dallas, Indianapolis, Kansas City and Grand Rapids.

Ott holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin/Platteville, Indiana University and a doctorate from the University of Kentucky. He is committed to education and has created a successful children's program that has been heard by thousands of middle school children.

Piano Concerto No. 2 was a joint commission by Moyer and the Berkshire Symphony Orchestra in celebration of the orchestra's 50th season.

The work, which premiered in 1995, suggests a tour through the world

of the romantic concerto, recreating both the competitive and the expressive qualities for our time. It opens with an explosive cadenza (shades of Beethoven's *Emperor*, or the concertos of Schumann or Grieg), projecting the personality of the soloist from the very beginning as one who can, when required, beat back the orchestral attack and then – when the danger is over – turn calm and expressive.

The middle movement begins with the soloist unfolding a delicately flowing line with a spare texture in the accompaniment. It is hesitating, emotionally brooding. Throughout the movement the piano and orchestra present distinct musical characters – the piano gentler, the orchestra more wild and restless.



FREDERICK MOYER

The finale rushes along with humorous bounce. It is lively and jesting, filled with sudden surprises and mood reversals to bring the concerto to its end in high good humor, with tremendous youthful energy.

The program opens with Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture*. In 1829, after visiting the Hebrides, Mendelssohn, then 20 years old, noted the main theme of the overture which was finished three years later.

It depicts the cold, sea swept terrain of those islands and the stormy seas off the coast of Scotland. Rounding out the program is Cesar Franck's magnificent *Symphony in D minor*, the only work in the symphonic genre by the great French romantic composer.

Wind Ensemble sets Dr. Seuss to music

The RIC Wind Ensemble continues its celebration of the College's Sesquicentennial year with "Green Eggs and Ham," a February 20 concert of contemporary music based on masterworks of the past. The program, led by conductor Rob Franzblau, will feature soprano performers Diana McVey and Liana Stillman.

The main event is Robert Kapilow's "mini-opera" setting of Dr. Seuss' classic *Green Eggs and Ham*. On one level, this children's story is a delightful tale of Sam-I-Am, who persistently promotes his green cuisine with silly rhymes. On another level, it is a parable about a child teaching an adult to overcome prejudice. Kapilow's setting is both playful and sophisticated, with musical styles ranging from baroque to blues.

The concert will also include Ron Nelson's *Medieval Suite*, a contemporary homage to Leonin, Perotin, and Machaut. Rounding out the concert is Charles Ives's *Old Home Days*, a tribute to familiar melodies and homegrown music making.

Spring Choral Concerts set for March 19, April 30

The RIC Chorus, Chamber Singers and Women's Chorus, directed by Teresa Coffman, will celebrate the College's Sesquicentennial anniversary with two Spring Choral Concerts this season. On March 19, the works of American composers will be highlighted, including Carlisle Floyd's *The Martyr*, scored for chorus, piano, trumpets, percussion and projected images.

April 30 is the date for the premiere of *Celebration!*, a work commissioned by the RIC choral area and composed by Michael Remson. The text for the first movement is taken from Roger Williams' 1638 compact for a new Rhode Island plantation.

Bannister Gallery –“Sculpture” by Janice Redman

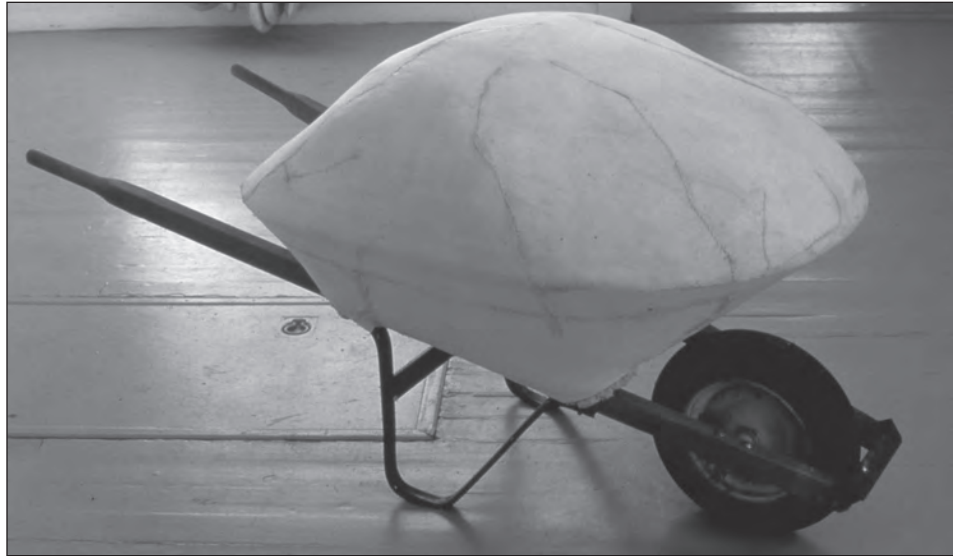
Utility items become objects of sculptor’s imagination

Janice Redman’s “Sculpture” is on display at Bannister Gallery from February 27 to March 19, marking the Rhode Island debut of this Cape Cod-based artist who rescues once-functional objects, materials and images and coalesces them with wax, plaster and felt to create sculptures.

Redman wields a sympathetic hand in forming her creations, infusing them with an animation that memorializes their domestic roots and amplifies psychological resonances.

Some of her works are devices that are embalmed, restrained or swaddled, then surrendered to a state of slumber; others are handled with the precision of a surgeon, with elements meticulously extracted and displayed for the viewer in the tradition of 19th-century biological specimens.

Originally from England, Redman has had her work exhibited extensively throughout New England since she arrived in the United States in 1991. She received an MFA in sculpture in 1988 from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland.



JANICE REDMAN, MY GOOSE, 1994, WHEELBARROW, COTTON, WAX - 4 FT. X 30 IN.

The exhibition was curated by Doug Bosch, assistant professor of art.

An artist’s lecture will take place February 26 at 6 p.m. in the Helen Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. Opening reception follows.

Gallery hours during exhibits are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Thursdays, noon - 9 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays. Exhibits and events are free and all are welcome to attend. Accessible to persons with disabilities. For information on event dates and exhibit opening receptions, check the web site at www.ric.edu/Bannister or call 401-456-9765.

Gallery programming presented through the cooperation of the following agencies:

The Dept. of Art Gallery Committee, the RIC Art Club, the Artist Co-Op, the Performing and Fine Arts Commission, the Committee for Lectures and Films, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, the E.M. Bannister Society, and the RI College Foundation.

RIC alum gets billing in world premiere play

Actress Jennifer Mudge '94, MFA '98, has a role in the production *The Stendhal Syndrome*, which has its world premiere opening in New York City’s new 59E59 Theatres February 16. It is scheduled to run until March 27.

The play was written by Terrence McNally and directed by Leonard Foglia. Along with Mudge, it includes cast members Isabella Rossellini, Richard Thomas, Michael Countryman and Yul Vázquez. The theatre company in the performance is Primary Stages, resident company of 59E59’s largest theatre.

“To be a part of a new play by such an incredible playwright is something every acting student dreams of,” said Mudge. “And I’m in very good company.”

The Stendhal Syndrome is the collective title of two comedic plays about art and humankind. In *Full Frontal Nudity*, three disparate American tourists in Florence and their guide are immersed in the beauty of Michelangelo’s *David*. In *Prelude & Liebestod*, a renowned conductor watches his life unravel while conducting Wagner’s musical masterpiece.

“It’s a different kind of piece –

very theatrical, and very touching,” Mudge said of the production. “It also has important things to say about art: how it affects us, how it immortalizes us, how we internalize it – very topical things, especially in today’s social and political climate.”

Mudge received her BA in theater from RIC



JENNIFER MUDGE

and her MFA through the RIC/ Trinity Repertory Conservatory program. During her undergraduate career, she appeared in RIC theatre presentations of *Ghosts*, *Amadeus*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Carousel*, and *Sweeny Todd*. She was selected as an Irene Ryan Acting Competition candidate for the American College Theatre Festival in 1993, 1994 (placing as the first alternate to the national finals), and 1995.

Mudge was a resident member of the Trinity Repertory acting company until 2000, when she moved to New York City. Since then, she has worked at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Arena Stage, Contemporary American Theater Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, the Director’s Company, and has appeared on the television shows *Law and Order* and *Hack*.

Arts & Entertainment

Calendar of Events Feb. 18- March 31

February 18 – 22
Theatre: *The Birthday Party*
By Harold Pinter
RIC Theatre
Directed by P. William Hutchinson
8:00 p.m. February 18 – 21
2:00 p.m. February 21 - 22
Helen Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center
General Admission \$14

February 19
Dance: *Rome & Jewels*
Rennie Harris’ PureMovement
Performing Arts Series
8:00 p.m. Auditorium in Roberts Hall
Reserved Seating \$26

February 20
Music: *Green Eggs and Ham*
RIC Wind Ensemble
Rob Franzblau, conductor
Diana McVey, soprano
Liana Stillman, speaker
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
General Admission \$7

February 23
Music: Praise Ensemble Gospel Choir
7:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
General Admission \$3

February 25
Music: Joseph Foley and the Narragansett Brass*
Chamber Music Series

1:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
Discussion following

February 27 – March 19
Art: *Sculpture**
Janice Redman
February 26 Artist’s Lecture 6:00 p.m.
Forman Theatre in the Nazarian Center
Opening reception follows
Bannister Gallery in Roberts Hall

February 28
Theatre: *Fiesta del Chiro*
Educational Center for the Arts & Sciences
7:00 p.m. Auditorium in Roberts Hall
Reserved Seating \$25

February 29
Music: RIC Chamber Orchestra*
with Chamber Ensembles
John Sumerlin, conductor
7:30 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center

March 3,
Music: Keyboard Conversations®
Jeffrey Siegel, piano
There’s More to Mozart Than Amadeus!
Performing Arts Series
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
Reserved Seating \$25

March 4 -7
Dance: *45th Annual Spring Concert Series*
RIC Dance Company
8:00 p.m. March 4 – 6; 2:00 p.m. March 7
Auditorium in Roberts Hall
General Admission \$10

March 17
Music: The Afro-Rican Ensemble*
Chamber Music Series
1:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
Master Class following

March 17
Theatre: Salzburg Marionettes
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Performing Arts Series
Special curtain time: 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium in Roberts Hall
Reserved Seating \$26

March 19
Music: Spring Choral Concert
RIC Chorus/Chamber Singers/Women’s Chorus
Teresa Coffman, conductor
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
General Admission \$7

March 22
Music: *9th Annual Samuel and Esther Chester Performance Award Concert**
RIC Symphony Orchestra
Ed Markward, conductor
Frederick Moyer, piano
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center

March 24
Music: Joshua Bell, violin
Accompanied by Simon Mulligan, piano
Performing Arts Series
8:00 p.m. Auditorium in Roberts Hall
Reserved Seating \$29

March 27
Music: RIC Opera Workshop*
Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance
Thomas Lawlor, director
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center

March 29
Music: Beethoven String Quartets
Muir String Quartet
President’s Music Series
8:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall
Reserved Seating \$25

March 31
Music: Mark Wood, electric violinist*
Chamber Music Series
1:00 p.m. Sapinsley Hall in the Nazarian Center
Master Class following

***Admission Free**

Price discounts for students and senior citizens are available for many shows.

Box office: 401-456-8144
General information: 401-456-8194.

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get yourself out!

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www.arttixri.com

The Back Page

The Campaign for Rhode Island College



We are pleased to announce that alumni and friends of the College have made gifts or pledges in the amount of \$21.3 million toward our goal of \$25 million.

We need YOUR help to reach our goal by the end of June.

You CAN make a difference. We will be listing gifts made to the Campaign in each one of the upcoming issues of *What’s News*, and tracking our progress on our Campaign Meter.

Be part of this historic moment – support the Campaign.

For more information, contact mbrown@ric.edu/401-456-8440/nhoogasian@ric.edu/401-456-8827/or give online – www.ric.edu



Ellis Island The Music of Peter Boyer '91

performed by the
Brown University
Orchestra

Saturday, March 6
8 p.m.

Veterans Memorial
Auditorium

Tickets: \$50 concert
(preferred seating)
and after-concert reception

\$10 concert
(\$5 students/ seniors)

Contact Peg Brown at
401-456-8440 for tickets

Around the campus...



Above: Tara Gurka '04 flies down the hill in front of the admissions office after the most recent snowstorm. Below: Publishing services staff member Charlie Allsworth (r) gets bombarded with snow by some fun-loving students.



Rhode Island First Lady Suzanne Carcieri (above) and Arnold Mitchem, president of the Council for Opportunity in Education (below) address the conference “Low-Income Adults and Higher Education: A New Partnership,” held January 29 in the Student Union Ballroom. Mitchem was the featured speaker at the event and Carcieri facilitated discussion by a panel that included state government and community leaders.



What's News at Rhode Island College

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What's News at Rhode Island College (USPS 681-650) is published by:

Rhode Island College
Office of News and Public Relations
600 Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Providence, RI 02908

It is published monthly from August to June, except twice monthly in September and March. Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI.

Postmaster:
Send address changes to:
What's News at
Rhode Island College
Office of News and Public Relations,
600 Mt. Pleasant Ave.,
Providence, RI 02908.

Deadline:
Deadline for submission of copy and photos is noon the Friday two weeks before publication date.
Telephone: 401-456-8090
Fax: 401-456-8887

Printing: TCI Press, Seekonk, Mass.



The next issue of
What’s News
will be March 22, 2004.

Deadline for submission
of copy, photos, etc.
is Friday, March 12 at noon.

Story ideas are welcome.
Call 401-456-8090
or email jfusco@ric.edu.

What's News submissions welcome

The Office of News and Public Relations encourages members of the faculty, staff and administration to submit news stories, feature articles and department information for publication consideration in *What’s News*.

Send materials directly to our campus office in Building 10 on the East Campus or email to jfusco@ric.edu or rmartin@ric.edu. All materials are subject to editorial review.